

Video Descriptions

The White Hole

11 minutes

This amusing, animated film is a wonderful commentary on our throw-away society. One day as kids play in the park, a black hole as big as a basketball suddenly appears. It gobbles up everything that comes its way. All kinds of experts, armed with the latest in modern technology, fail to come up with an explanation. Then they get a great idea: What a perfect way to get rid of all our waste! All seems fine until one day a white hole appears...and starts regurgitating the waste.

Just a fanciful tale? Or does this tell us something about the misguided way we think about waste? There is no “away.”

(Review from Bullfrog Films web site, <http://www.bullfrogfilms.com/catalog/hole.html>)

Modern Marvels: The Manhattan Project

50 minutes

The scientists and engineers who helped build the world's first nuclear weapon reflect on their accomplishments and legacy in this compelling video. The first nuclear explosion took place, appropriately, in an area of the New Mexico desert called *jornada del muerto*—the journey of death. At 5:30 a.m. on July 15, 1945, the first atomic bomb was detonated, and a new era began.

“Modern Marvels” draws on government files, archival footage, and the memories of many surviving team members to tell the extraordinary story of the Manhattan Project. It's an in-depth portrait of one of the most impressive scientific, engineering, and manufacturing projects in human history, made all the more compelling because of its ethical implications. In just 28 months, the U.S. created a nationwide industry that consumed \$30 billion in today's dollars and one-tenth of the nation's electricity, and delivered the deadliest weapon that mankind had ever conceived. Yet when the scientists and dignitaries gathered in that remote desert nearly 60 years ago, few had any idea what they had created.

Among the people interviewed for this program are General Paul Tibbets, who piloted the *Enola Gay* over Hiroshima, the past and present directors of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and the official Manhattan Project photographer.

(Review from A&E Television Networks web page, <http://store.aetv.com/html/product/index.jhtml?id=43497>)